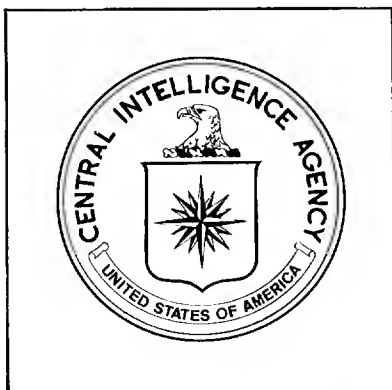


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MIDDLE EAST — AFRICA — SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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North Yemen

Hamdi vs the Leftists

Head of state Colonel Ibrahim Hamdi, having effectively boxed in his conservative opponents, is now preparing to focus his efforts on neutralizing his country's leftist politicians. It is not yet clear what tactics he intends to employ.

Hamdi's concern about leftist political strength has been heightened by the election recently of seven leftists to local development boards. The board positions are generally considered to be stepping stones to the Consultative Assembly--elections for which will probably be held in early 1976.

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Hamdi believes the leftists will be more difficult to tame than were tribal sheikhs and other right-wing Yemeni political forces. [REDACTED] 25X6
Hamdi and his centrist supporters have not been able to match the funding, drive and ability of the leftists to appeal to the ideals and frustrations of the Yemenis.

The leftists have been able to call on South Yemen, Libya, and Iraq in the past for financial assistance. Hamdi came away from a visit to Baghdad last month believing that he now has the support of the Iraqi regime. Nevertheless, he was told by Iraqi leaders that they would continue to give a monthly subvention of \$8,400 to Muhsin al-Ayni, a leading North Yemeni leftist and former prime minister. We have long believed that al-Ayni was in the pay of Baghdad. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Nigeria

Western State Governor Sacked

The military governor of the predominantly Yoruba Western state has been abruptly sacked after holding office for about a month. The top leadership in Lagos apparently concluded that their new man in Ibadan, naval captain Aduwo, was too beholden to local interests and too dilatory in carrying out directives from the Supreme Military Council. The officer appointed to replace Aduwo, Colonel Jemibewon, is regarded as a blunt, no-nonsense individual and the US consul in Ibadan predicts that the state is in for the toughest administration it has experienced in nine years of military rule.

Western state officials believe Aduwo ran afoul of the new regime primarily because he sought to take local civilian opinion into account before acting on orders. For example, he allegedly dragged his feet on the matter of handing the state-run University of Ife over to federal control as a result of pressure from university chancellor Chief Obafemi Awolowo. Awolowo, one of Nigeria's most influential former politicians, is a champion of university autonomy and has long criticized the military for failing to return the country to civilian rule.

Last month, the new military government ordered the federal takeover of the University of Ife and Ahmadu Bello University, previously run by the six northern states. The move completes the gradual assumption by the federal government of full administrative control over all higher education institutions that has been under way since 1972.
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